

## Summary/Final Minutes – Work Session – February 4, 2016

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### **Savannah City Government SUMMARY/FINAL MINUTES COUNCIL WORK SESSION & CITY MANAGER'S BRIEFING February 4, 2016 – 11:00 a.m.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Eddie W. DeLoach, Presiding  
Mayor Pro-Tem Carol Bell  
Alderman Julian Miller, Chairman of Council  
Alderman Brian Foster, Vice-Chairman of Council  
Van Johnson, II, (arrived at 11:25 a.m.), Tony Thomas  
John Hall, Estella Shabazz, Bill Durrence

City Manager Stephanie Cutter  
City Attorney W. Brooks Stillwell  
Assistant City Attorney William Shearouse

Mayor DeLoach called the meeting to order.

Upon motion of Alderman Miller, seconded by Alderman Bell, and unanimously carried the agenda was amended to add an Appointment to the Housing Authority of Savannah and Personnel.

City Manager Cutter introduced Cindy Kelley, Executive Director of the Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless who will be focusing on Housing First in the County Homes Project

#### **Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless**

Cindy Kelley, Executive Director presented a PowerPoint Presentation on the 2016-2018 Strategic Plan (**Presentation on file in the Office of the Clerk of Council**)

#### **The following questions and comments were made during and after the presentation**

Alderman Hall asked Ms. Kelley how many individuals will be housed per unit and how many units are planned to be on the 3.1 acre property. Ms. Kelley replied it will be one individual per unit, the site plan has not been completed as of yet, but phase 1 due diligence will include environmental survey and title search to ensure the land is appropriate. Twelve homeless veterans will be housed in the first phase. Alderman Hall stated as District 3 Alderman he is proud the development will be in his district.

City Manager Cutter stated in terms of services to the members that will reside in the camp how will that be managed. Ms. Kelley stated that is CHSA's responsibility and they will shift some of the services to that location. It is something they look at as a model and want to do well. An

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example is that there will be a clubhouse for every certain number of units to house AA meetings and such. The idea is to create a community atmosphere as they believe this is the only way to make the endeavor a success.

Ms. Kelley stated there is a need for approximately three day centers to serve the homeless community or there needs to be some type of expansion for the day centers to service the homeless population during the day. Alderman Miller asked is there anything the City of Savannah can do to assist. Ms. Kelley said possibly a Task Force to look into day centers and where they could potentially be placed. She also stated there are a number of churches that are empty during the day that could assist by having smaller day centers for the homeless to go to that could possibly be reimbursed. She stated she has suggested the idea in the past but it would take a collaborative effort from the City and County.

Alderman Thomas stated homelessness is spread throughout the community but he main focus is the Downtown area. He asked what services are provided to the homeless population on the Southside. Ms. Kelley replied it's the same services for the entire County. Alderman Thomas asked how often the caseworkers go past DeRenne. Ms. Kelley replied fairly regularly there is a database that all individuals are entered into as they try to make contact with everyone they see however, if they refuse services they cannot do anything about it. Ms. Kelley also stated there is a housing crisis in the City of Savannah and many of the homeless population knows. Alderman Thomas stated he doesn't want to appease one part of the City and push them to another part.

City Manager Cutter asked Ms. Kelley as it relates to homeless veterans has CHSA received any additional funding from the federal government for assisting and addressing. Ms. Kelley replied not financial resources but they are part of a group of individuals in that are pushing an effort in assisting homeless veterans.

Ms. Kelley assured Council they are going out to see the homeless population, but there isn't a place for them to go. She stated they track where they are living but cannot offer them housing as there isn't a place for them to go however they do offer them the services they have, most of them do not have enough income to qualify for housing.

Alderman Shabazz asked Ms. Kelley how much funding CHSA receives from the City of Savannah's budget. Ms. Kelley replied \$190,000. Alderman Thomas asked Ms. Kelley how much funding they receive from the County, she replied zero.

Alderman Bell suggested putting garbage receptacles in the homeless camp under the Tallmadge Bridge.

Alderman Bell asked Ms. Kelley what is the proposed funding plan. Ms. Kelley replied they have a financing deal with the owner over 7 years to pay for the land with no interest, and they are looking at raising the funds mostly privately for phase one. The cost of the housing per unit will be \$6998 per unit and site plan development is \$150,000.

Mayor DeLoach thanked Ms. Kelley and staff for their time and efforts shown towards the homeless community.

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### Appointment to Housing Authority of Savannah

Mayor DeLoach suggested appointing Kay Ford. Council came to a common consensus.

### Executive Session

Upon motion of Alderman Shabazz, seconded by Alderman Miller, and unanimously carried Council went into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Litigation and Personnel.

Upon completion of this session, a motion was made to come out of Executive Session by Alderman Bell, seconded by Alderman Durrence, and unanimously carried.

City Manager Stephanie Cutter presented the City Manager's Briefing of the agenda items for the Council Meeting of February 4, 2016. The agenda is attached and made a part of the permanent record.

Mayor DeLoach adjourned this meeting.



Dyanne C. Reese, MMC,  
Clerk of Council